Dear Western Academic Student Employees:

Thank you for your letter and for informing Western Washington University of the recently submitted representation petition to the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC).

Western Washington University (WWU) will work with the PERC and the Office of the Attorney General to ensure compliance with federal and state law. The PERC holds a crucial place within the
state employment system with responsibilities for formally recognizing unions and defining the scope of bargaining units. Further, as you may be aware, the legislature has not passed an authorizing statute related to the collective bargaining rights of Academic Student Employees. Such legislation is essential to provide a uniform structure, as well as orderly and clearly defined procedures for collective bargaining and dispute resolution.

WWU is, at this time, unable to formally recognize or negotiate with any bargaining unit. As this process develops, WWU looks forward to receiving guidance from the PERC and potentially the state legislature regarding WAWU’s petition.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Liz Parkes
Director, Employee and Labor Relations

C: Sabah Randhawa, President
Melissa Nelson, Assistant Attorney General